

It Doesn't Just Happen

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Command Chaplain

A few days ago, Chief Reed, the Religious Program Specialist at the Chapel, was changing the sign by the road in front of the Chapel. Someone saw him putting the letters on the board and stopped by and stated that they always wondered who changed the sign. It usually is the Chief, although I have changed it on occasion. I guess some people assume that some of these things just happen, without giving a lot of thought to who is actually behind it.

There are a lot of things that happen at the Chapel, or in any other organization, that we just take for granted. We don't really notice who waters the flowers. We assume that the grass just gets cut. In fact, we tend to notice things that don't get done, while we fail to pay attention to the things that are routinely taken care of. We just never think about the person behind the activity.

Playing a supporting role is frequently a thankless activity. It is the actor on the stage that gets to make a curtain call, while we never see the person who built the props or made the costumes. We just assume that these things take place. We forget about the person who does the make-up for the actors. The supporting roles, while very important, go unnoticed.

What do you take for granted in your life? Do you assume you will have air to breath when you wake up in the morning? Have you given thought recently to where the air came from? What about the miracle of life? We take for granted that we will be alive tomorrow, never thinking about what a miracle it is that we are alive today. About the only time most of us give thought to the miracle of life is when we see a new life arrive in the world and we marvel at such a beautiful new person.

Maybe it is time to acknowledge again the person who is in the greatest supporting role of all. It is the author of life. It is the one who began the story of the history of man and has already determined how the ending will be written. It is the Master Designer. It is the One who has constructed a magnificent stage upon which we perform the act of life. It the One who provides all of the props that we need, all of the sustenance that we need and the One who is always an attentive audience during our performance, even when we think no one watches or appreciates our performance.

God is the author. He is the One who watches with joyful anticipation of our next move. He laughs at our jokes. He cries at the sad parts. And He waits in the wings, ready to prompt us when we need a little bit of help with our lines or our next move. He is in the greatest supporting role of all. Thank Him.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.